

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Application No.: 09/884,455

Confirmation No.: 1938

Filed: June 18, 2001

Art Unit: 1656

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

Examiner: W. Moore

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated October 5, 2009 (Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20090930), for which a response is due on January 5, 2010. This response is submitted with a petition for a three-months' extension of time. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.